

East Grinstead CIVIC NEWS Town Council

June 2011

Edition 52



High flier John
is new Mayor

COUNCILLOR John Saull is East Grinstead's new Mayor. John has lived in Ashurst Wood for more than 30 years, and is former Head of the CAA's Operating Standards Division. He has worked around the world including the West Indies and Buenos Aires where he met his wife Silvina. The couple have two daughters, Annabelle and Vanessa, and a son, Charles. A lifelong supporter of the Conservative Party, he has been President of the town branch for the past five years. John, who still flies a 58-year-old Auster, has chosen The Guinea Pig Club and St Catherine's Hospice as the charities which will benefit from his term in office. "Given my own background in aviation I am very pleased to support the burned WWII airmen who were at the forefront of our fight for survival as a nation," he said. "And many people are touched by friends and relatives who have benefited from the work of the hospice."

* Deputy Mayor is Liz Bennett.

Time to honour our pledges

'We will work with and for people of East Grinstead'

CLLR Norman Webster, the leader of the Town Council's new Conservative majority group, has committed his party to "honouring councillors' pledges to the people of East Grinstead". "The new Council's most important priority is to engage with residents and business people to develop a plan which will take the town forward," he said.

"Charities also have an important role in the life of the town and we will seek their contributions too."

To this end the Council has committed itself to:

- * driving a community-led plan which delivers local priorities including the right mix of housing, improved traffic management and infrastructure
- * promoting and supporting East Grinstead's economic growth
- * maintaining a green focus to protect and improve the town environment
- * empowering the community by engaging with them and delivering within financial limitations
- * supporting a sports strategy which will involve people of all ages and abilities.

In line with the last of these objectives, Cllr Heidi Brunson announced a £1.3 million grant from West Sussex County Council for building a new sports hall at Imberhorne Upper School. Baldwins Hill, Halsford Park and Sackville Schools are also to receive money for capital projects including a new roof, windows and boilers.

"The Town Council looks forward to working with and for all the people of East Grinstead," said Cllr Webster.

ALERT! The judges from South and South East in Bloom will be in East Grinstead on 6 and 8 July

THE average East Grinstead turnout for 5 May's Mid Sussex District elections was 45.4 %. Imberhorne ward topped the poll with a 52 per cent turnout: the Town ward came bottom with just 41 per cent of electors casting their vote.

Wildflower guide to East Court woods



THE Ashplats Conservation Group, which has been helping to maintain woodland on the East Court Estate since 1997, has launched a new website at www.ashplats.org. The site has a history of the woodlands and its five ponds, a map and photographs identifying many of the area's flora and fauna. *Pictured left are the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows who helped Ashplats volunteers and Council outdoor staff to plant 3,000 bluebells which should form a blue carpet alongside the woodland walk next year.

New Town Clerk

NEW Town Clerk Julie Holden says she is "looking forward to serving East Grinstead and continuing the progressive and dynamic culture of the Town Council." Julie succeeds Chris Rolley who retired at the end of April.

Free history of High Weald

LANDOWNERS in the parts of West Sussex covered by the High Weald AONB have been invited to have a free visit from Cultural Landscape Advisor Matt Pitts. Matt has already visited more than 100 landowners and Parish AGMs to give them a greater understanding of their local landscape history. For more information email Samantha Nicholas at s.nicholas@highweald.org

FOR Council news and contacts, plus updates of meetings and the town diary, see the website www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Love is in the air...

IT may only have been the new Duchess of Cambridge's second choice as a wedding venue but for local brides the Meridian Hall is an increasingly popular place to hold the most important celebration of their lives.

The gardens at East Court, winners of a prestigious Silver Medal in the South and South East in Bloom competition, make an impressive backdrop for photographs. And inside, the Meridian Hall is also wedding-ready with a newly-polished floor, new voiles tenting the pyramid glass ceiling and new wedding-white china.

* For full details of the wedding services available at the Meridian Hall, and at the 18th century grade II listed East Court Mansion, contact the Town Council's wedding planner Alison Merricks on 01342 323636.

Blue and yellow and pink and green...

THE 252 hanging baskets around the town this summer, match last year's record number which helped secure the town a Silver Gilt from the judges of the South and South East in Bloom committee. This year's colour scheme features blue surfinia, yellow biden, pink geraniums and variegated foliage.



Pointing the finger...

TOWN Council handyman Roger Gwatkin has restored and reinstalled the Vowels Lane finger post after a request from local resident Michael Awty, pictured (above left) with Roger.

Make a diary date:

The Story of East Grinstead's Art Deco Buildings will be at the town museum from 8 June.

THERE will be **Band Concerts** at East Court from noon until 4 pm on 26 June, and 11 September. Bring a picnic.

The highly popular **Midsummer Market** featuring French traders will be back with other stalls in London Road on 23 July.



New Mayor John Saull with his deputy Liz Bennett (centre) in the Mayor's parlour at East Court, flanked by 14 of their newly-elected Council colleagues.

Guinea Pigs at East Court

MAYOR John Saull marked the 70th anniversary of the town's connection with the world famous Guinea Pig Club by inviting 26 members and their guests to tea at East Court. It was the first-ever official visit by the group of badly-burned former airmen who dubbed themselves Guinea Pigs after being operated on by pioneering plastic surgeon Sir Archie McIndoe. The tea was also attended by former mayors who had been made friends of the Club, and members of the newly formed Town Council.



Mayor Steve's memorable year

RETIRING mayor Steve Barnett paid warm tribute to his wife Pauline at the end of a year which had included 251 official visits, a meeting with Princess Anne and a trip to East Grinstead's Italian twin town Verbania.

Presenting Pauline with an orchid, Steve said she had been a "fantastic" mayoress who had given him her wholehearted support, and gone out of her way to speak to people, despite being someone who "doesn't normally seek the limelight".

"It has been a marvellous and memorable year for both of us, and I hope all the new councillors who have been elected get as much pleasure and satisfaction out of their public service as we have done," he said.

Steve then presented cheques for more than £2,000 to each of his two mayoral charities, the Town Museum and the Blond McIndoe unit at the QVH.

CLAQUE, the theatre group behind the Community Play, is looking for ways to build on the historic success of last winter. Anyone interested in joining a new community choir, drama group, or annual arts festival should email director Jon Oram at: info@claquetheatre.com



THE Great Time Machine, a new booklet about East Grinstead, is now at the library. It features fascinating facts about the town's history and architecture, as well as forgotten anecdotes about some of the famous people who have lived in or visited the town.

Did you know that East Grinstead is 400 feet above sea level? That in 1955 MP Harold MacMillan played in a charity cricket match against actor Rex Harrison? Or that the last public execution in East Grinstead took place in 1794 of a man found guilty of horse theft?

Council Diary

23 June	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
23 June	(Th)	Special Council
27 June	(M)	Planning
4 July	(M)	Council
18 July	(M)	Planning
8 August	(M)	Planning
5 September	(M)	Planning
8 September	(Th)	Public Services
15 September	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
15 September	(Th)	Charities
22 September	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
26 September	(M)	Planning
3 October	(M)	Council
17 October	(M)	Planning
7 November	(M)	Planning
10 November	(Th)	Public Services
17 November	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
24 November	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
28 November	(M)	Planning
5 December	(M)	Council
8 December	(Th)	Charities
19 December	(M)	Planning
2012		
9 January	(M)	Planning
12 January	(Th)	Public Services
19 January	(Th)	Amenities and Tourism

All full Committee and Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at East Court Mansion and are open to the public. Meetings start at 7.45pm except those of the Charities Committee which start after the Amenities & Tourism Committee. Council meetings allow 30 minutes for public questions commencing at 7.45 pm. Committee meetings allow 15 minutes for public questions commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Useful telephone numbers

East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
West Sussex County Council Area Highways	
	01243 642105
East Grinstead Learning Centre	01342 321874
Citizens' Advice Bureau	01342 321638
Library, West Street	01342 410050
Help Point at the Library	01342 300780
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Downland Housing Association	0845 6887717
Olympos Leisure Centre	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	0845 6070999
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
East Grinstead Visitor Information	01342 410121
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Museum	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

Contact the Town Council at:
East Court Mansion, College Lane,
East Grinstead, RH19 3LT. 01342 323636
Or visit our website at
www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk
email: town council@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Need help with Council services?

FIND help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council at the Help Point in East Grinstead Library, West St.
 Monday 9.30am - 7pm
 Tuesday to Thursday 9.30am - 6pm
 Friday/Saturday 9.30am - 5pm
 Phone 01342 300780. Fax 01342 410262
 email: east.grinstead.help.point@westsussex.gov.uk

Contact your Councillor

Herontye

John O'Brien: 5 The Dell 321883
 [Con] A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3XP

Dick Sweatman 81 Estcots Drive 322743
 [Con] Pl, PS^ East Grinstead RH19 3YW

John Saull Little Beeches, Woods Hill Lane 822712
 [Con] Mayor East Grinstead, RH19 3RF

Town

Ben Burns 3 The Close 07740
 [Con] Pl, PS, A&T East Grinstead RH19 1DQ 075331

Nicola Burns 3 The Close 315848
 [Con] Pl, PS East Grinstead RH19 1DQ

Peter Wyan 7 Clays Close 313985
 [Con] Pl*, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 4DJ

Worsted

Garry Sillitoe 3 Farm Close 07771
 [Con] PS, A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3QQ 892113

Baldwins

Margaret Belsey Gotwick Farm, Holtye Road 321574
 [Con] A&T, F&GP^ East Grinstead RH19 3PP

Nick Hodges Wellbourne, 75 Lingfield Road 300113
 [Con] PS, F&GP, Ch* East Grinstead RH19 2EP

Norman Webster 7 Newlands Crescent 317806
 [Con] F&GP* East Grinstead, RH19 1LF

Ashplats

Jacqueline Beckford 7 Woodlands Road 317864
 [LD] PS, F&GP East Grinstead, RH19 3EH

Liz Bennett 39 Copse Close 301007
 [Con] PS, A&T East Grinstead RH19 3EF

Danny Favor 7 Barn Field Place 410244
 [Con] PS, A&T, Ch^ East Grinstead RH19 3FD

Tony Scott Flat 2, 26 Railway Approach 325045
 [Con] Pl, A&T^ East Grinstead RH19 1BP

Imberhorne

Heidi Brunson 83 Blount Avenue 327200
 [Con] PS*, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 1JN

Bob Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
 [LD] Pl, A&T East Grinstead RH19 2DY

Frank Osborne Wisborough, Furze Lane 322646
 [Con] Pl, A&T*, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 2BQ

Rex Whittaker 11 The Stennings 302515
 [Con] Pl^, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 1PF

F&GP - Finance & General Purposes, A&T - Amenities & Tourism,
 Pl - Planning, PS - Public Services, Ch - Charity, * Chairman, ^ Vice Chairman.
 All phone numbers are 01342 and are Councillors' private numbers. C - Conservative. LD - Liberal Democrat

 **EAST COURT MANSION**  **THE MERIDIAN HALL** 
A Spectacular Location For Weddings, Civil Ceremonies, Wedding Receptions & Family Gatherings
 For further information please contact East Grinstead Town Council on 01342 323636